

**LUMPKIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**
Special Called Meeting
AGENDA

Lumpkin County Courthouse
Conference Room
Dahlonega, Georgia
August 6, 2007
6:00 P.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Gooch

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

III. NEW BUSINESS

- Proposed Lumpkin County 2008 Budget
- Floyd Wimpy – Concrete Paving Lumpkin County Fire Station No. 4

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

V. ADJOURN

Chairman Gooch

**LUMPKIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING**

August 6, 2007

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Gooch called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Lumpkin County Courthouse. Stephen Gooch, John Raber, Deborah Hutcheson and Clarence Grindle were present. Clarence Stowers was not present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Commissioner Raber made a motion to approve the agenda after moving consideration of the Floyd Wimpy matter to the front of the agenda. The motion was seconded by Clarence Grindle and approved by Commissioners Raber, Hutcheson and Grindle. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Floyd Wimpy – Concrete Paving Lumpkin County Fire Station No. 4

Motion: Commissioner Raber moved to approve this contract, which was seconded by Deborah Hutcheson. John Raber, Deborah Hutcheson and Clarence Grindle approved the motion. Motion carried.

Proposed Lumpkin County 2008 Budget

The County Manager Kelley said that, at the direction of the board, the staff looked at cutting the budget so that there would be no tax increase. They came up with a "Plan A" and "Plan B" for the board to consider. The County Manager and Finance Director Allison Martin explained the process used to eliminate from the budget all except what would be absolutely needed next year. Commissioner Raber read aloud the "Plan A" list so that the attending public would know what was included. Allison Martin then explained "Plan B" and read that list.

Questions were asked and discussion took place regarding the impact each of these cuts would have on the community and its citizens. Items discussed included housing out-of-county inmates in 2008, the impact of paying overtime to certain volunteer fireman, concern that the county no longer has the type of inmates in our jail who can work such jobs as those at the recycling center and the animal shelter, and how best to use the excess fund balance. Regarding the fund balance the consensus seemed to be to reserve fund balance for capital items only rather than any operating expenses as those are recurring.

Some of the citizens said that they have been unable to obtain any material from the County spelling out any details of the proposed budget. One citizen suggested that it would be good to have this information on the web site. Citizen M. J. Stover said he does not want to pay more taxes but if he can be convinced that the County has cut the budget to its minimum, he would be willing to pay more in taxes if it can be shown to him that it is necessary to maintain services.

Claudia Gibson, Director of CRLS explained library needs saying that the library may have to cut more hours and lay off some staff. Diane Stephenson of the Literacy Coalition then spoke about literacy needs and how this will impact the county in the future regarding law enforcement and poverty needs.

The Chairman called for a break at 7:40 p.m. The meeting resumed at 7:55 p.m.

The following motions concern "Plan A".

Motion: Commissioner Raber made a motion to keep the \$5,000.00 Literacy Coalition request in the 2008 Budget. There was no second and the motion failed.

Motion: Commission Raber made a motion to remove the ARC Matching Funds from the 2008 budget but not to terminate this grant. This motion was seconded by Clarence Grindle and approved by John Raber, Deborah Hutcheson and Clarence Grindle. Motion carried.

Mark French, Finance Department will check on when the ARC Grant matching funds will likely be needed.

Motion: Commissioner Hutcheson moved to delete the funding of the new position of Community Services Director and Secretary from the 2008 Budget. This motion was seconded by John Raber. Commissioners Raber, Hutcheson and Grindle approved the motion. Motion carried.

Motion: Commissioner Raber made a motion to keep the hiring of seven additional firemen in the 2008 Budget. There was no second to the motion. Motion failed.

Motion: Commissioner Hutcheson moved to include a total of four new firemen in the 2008 Budget. The motion was seconded by Clarence Grindle and approved by John Raber, Deborah Hutcheson and Clarence Grindle. Motion carried.

The Fire Chief said that hiring four additional firemen would provide one person to drive the truck but nothing else. However, he said that this would help him because there would be another person there from the ambulance to go on the call with the truck driver. Four additional people would give him his "Kelly" person.

Motion: Commissioner Hutcheson made a motion to freeze nine open positions in the Sheriff's Department immediately and to cut one additional jailor in January. There was no second to this motion. Motion failed.

Motion: Commissioner Grindle moved to leave the Senior Center funding in the 2008 Budget. This motion was seconded by John Raber. The motion was approved by John Raber, Deborah Hutcheson and Clarence Grindle. Motion carried.

Motion: Commissioner Raber made a motion to keep the Animal Shelter funding in the 2008 Budget. This motion was seconded by Clarence Grindle and approved by Commissioners Raber, Hutcheson and Grindle. Motion carried.

Motion: Commissioner Raber moved to reduce the contingency amount by the amount listed in Plan A. This motion was seconded by Clarence Grindle and approved by John Raber, Deborah Hutcheson and Clarence Grindle. Motion carried.

Motion: Commissioner Raber made a motion to keep the \$5,000.00 for the Literacy Coalition as listed in the 2008 Budget. This motion was seconded by Clarence Grindle and approved by Commissioners Raber and Grindle. Commissioner Hutcheson voted against the motion. Motion carried.

No specific motions were made pertaining to "Plan B". The board will meet with Sheriff McClure at a meeting at 5:00 p.m. August 9 in the courthouse concerning inmate housing and a potential hiring freeze in his department.


ADJOURN

There being no further business Chairman Gooch called for a motion to adjourn at 8:25 p.m.

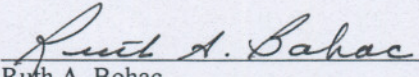
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***Motion:** Commissioner Raber moved to adjourn. This motion was seconded by Deborah Hutcheson and approved by Commissioners Raber, Hutcheson and Grindle. Motion carried*

8/16/2007
Date


Stephen W. Gooch, Chairman
Lumpkin County Board of Commissioners

Attest:


Ruth A. Bohac
Clerk, Lumpkin County